

U.S. Candidate for the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues - 2023-2025 Term

Ambassador (ret.) Keith M. Harper

“ The international community is at an inflection point; all agree on what the rights of indigenous peoples are. Now, we need steadfast collective action, from indigenous peoples themselves, but also UN member states, NGOs, human rights defenders to work in concert to realize the observance of these rights. That is our mission. ”

— Ambassador (ret.)
Keith M. Harper



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ELECTION IN APRIL 2022

Ambassador (ret.) Keith M. Harper

Citizen of the Cherokee Nation
and the United States of America

CURRENT POSITION:

Partner at Jenner & Block; Chair of the Native American Practice and Co-Chair of the Human Rights & Global Strategy Practice.

Senior Fellow and Instructor at Brown University's Watson Institute for International and Public Affairs.

Elect Ambassador Harper to the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues

- Distinguished attorney and diplomat dedicated to human rights, particularly those of Indigenous women and girls, and the rights of Indigenous peoples.
- Citizen of the Cherokee Nation and first Native American to be named a U.S. Ambassador, serving from 2014 to 2017 as U.S. Ambassador and Permanent Representative to the UN Human Rights Council.
- Served as class counsel for 500,000 Native Americans in the landmark Native American trust funds lawsuit *Cobell v. Salazar*, ultimately negotiating a settlement of the case for 3.4 billion dollars.
- If elected, Ambassador Harper will draw upon his lengthy experience and deep commitment to human rights to help ensure the Permanent Forum effectively lives up to its mandate.

EXPERIENCE, HONORS, EDUCATION

Experience:

- **Jenner & Block LLP**, Partner And Chair Native American And Co-Chair Human Rights & Global Strategies Practices (2020-Present)
- **Watson Institute, Brown University**, Senior Fellow (2021-Present)
- **Kilpatrick Stockton & Townsend LLP**, Partner & Chair Of Native American Practice Group (2017-2020, 2006-2014)
- **U.S. Ambassador & Permanent Representative to the U.N. Human Rights Council** (2014-2017)
- **Obama-Biden Presidential Transition Team**, Energy & Environment Cluster (11/2008-1/2009)
- **Supreme Court of the Poarch Band Of Creek Indians**, Supreme Court Justice (Part-Time) (2007-2008)
- **Mashantucket Pequot Tribal Court**, Appellate Justice (Part-Time) (2001-2007)

Leadership Roles:

- **Senior Advisor**, American Bar Association Rule of Law Initiative (2018-present)
- **Board Member**, United Nations Association-National Capitol Area (2019-present)
- **Board Member**, American Constitution Society (2017-present)
- **Commissioner**, President's Commission on White House Fellowship (2011-2014)
- **Board of Trustees Member**, Lawyer's Committee on Civil Rights (2010-2014)
- **Chairman**, American Red Cross, National Diversity Council (2009-2014)

Honors:

- Mitchell Museum of the American Indian Trailblazer Award (2021)
- U.N. Association F. Allen "Tex" Harris Diplomacy Award (2017)
- National Congress of American Indians Special Recognition Award (2017)
- Cherokee Nation Statesman Award (2014)
- The Native American Bar Association, DC, Award for Significant Contributions to Indian Law and Policy (2012)
- Listed in Chambers USA: America's Leading Lawyers for Business (2009-2013, 2018, 2019, 2020, 2021)
- Recognized in The Best Lawyers in America® (2009-2013, 2018, 2019, 2020, 2021)
- Rockefeller Foundation Next Generation of Leaders Fellow (2002-04)
- Skadden, Arps Fellow (1995-1997)
- Root-Tilden-Snow Scholar (1991-1993)

Education:

- New York University School of Law, New York, NY J.D. (January 1994)
- University of California, Berkeley, CA B.A., Sociology, Psychology (May 1990)